DC
DARK NIGHTS
METAL
1
BATMAN™
THE DAWNBREAKER
METAL
TIE-IN
FABOK
·2017·
Humphries
Van Sciver
Wright
RATED T+ TEEN PLUS DCCOMICS.COM DEC 2017

"If reading this now, whether I am alive or dead, you will know truth."

RORSCHACH

A TWELVE ISSUE DELUXE SERIES

GEOFF JOHNS • GARY FRANK
BRAD ANDERSON

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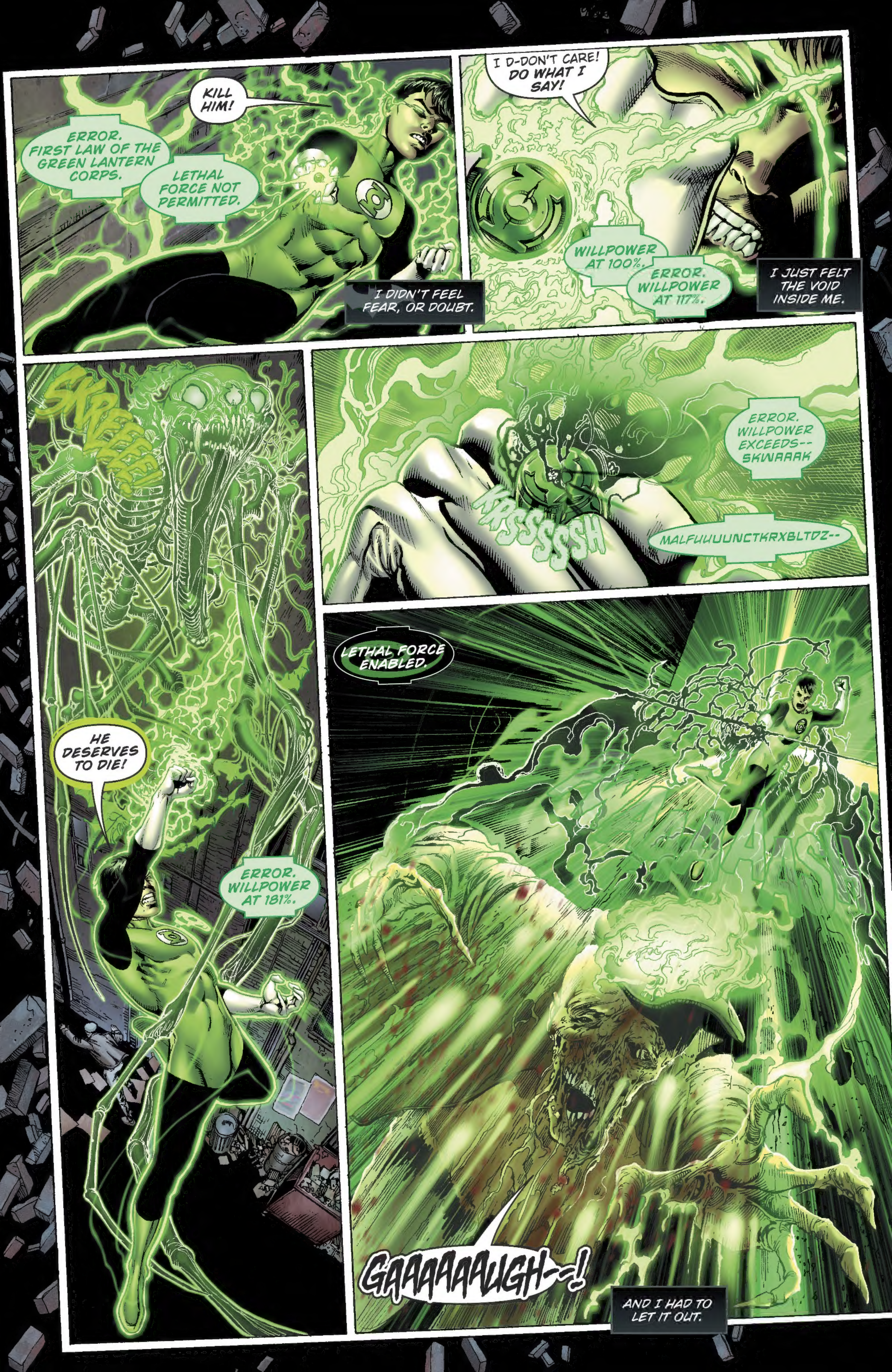
EARTH -32.
GOTHAM CITY.
These are the stories from the Dark Multiverse that should NEVER be...
Witness the rise of the Dark Knights...
HOW DID I FEEL?
IN THAT MOMENT, WHEN MY WHOLE WORLD CHANGED?
WE'RE DONE HERE, KID.
GET DOWN ON YOUR KNEES, CLOSE YOUR EYES, AND YOU AIN'T GONNA GET HURT.
WHEN I STOOD THERE HELPLESS AS MY MOM AND DAD'S BLOOD WAS RUNNING INTO THE GUTTER?
I FELT... NOTHING.
LIKE THE SKY AND THE GROUND BROKE APART AND ALL THAT WAS LEFT WAS A VOID AS BIG AS EVERYTHING.
AND THAT VOID WAS INSIDE ME.
I DIDN'T FEEL ANYTHING.
NOT EVEN FEAR.

BRUCE WAYNE.
YOU HAVE THE ABILITY TO OVERCOME GREAT FEAR.
WELCOME TO THE GREEN LANTERN CORPS.
I DIDN'T OVERCOME FEAR. IT WAS OBLITERATED FROM ME.
AND I DIDN'T GIVE ANY THOUGHT TO THE WORD "CORPS" OR EVEN WHAT THE HELL WAS TALKING TO ME.
ALL I CARED ABOUT WAS HIM.
YOU BASTARD!
WHAT THE--
T-TAKE THE MONEY!
I'M NOT HELPLESS NOW!
DIE!


KILL HIM!
ERROR. FIRST LAW OF THE GREEN LANTERN CORPS.
LETHAL FORCE NOT PERMITTED.
I DIDN'T FEEL FEAR, OR DOUBT.
I D-DON'T CARE! DO WHAT I SAY!
WILLPOWER AT 100%.
ERROR. WILLPOWER AT 117%.
I JUST FELT THE VOID INSIDE ME.
SKREEE
HE DESERVES TO DIE!
ERROR. WILLPOWER AT 181%.
KRSSSSSH
ERROR. WILLPOWER EXCEEDS-- SKWAAAK
MALFUUUUNCTKRXBLTDZ--
LETHAL FORCE ENABLED.
GAAAAAAUGH--!
AND I HAD TO LET IT OUT.

I HAD THE MOST POWERFUL WEAPON IN THE UNIVERSE ON MY FINGER.
R-RING...BRING MY MOM AND DAD BACK.
BUT I WOULD HAVE GIVEN IT UP TO HAVE MY MOM AND DAD.
ACTIVATING.
BBBBBRRUUUUUCE...
WE LOOOOOVE YOUUUU...
I WOULD HAVE TRADED EVERYTHING SO I DIDN'T FEEL SO HELPLESS. SO...
...ALONE.

THEY CALLED ME HERO, AT FIRST.
GREEN LANTERN. WASN'T SURE YOU'D SHOW UP.
GORDON. I ADVISE YOU TO REMAIN POLITE WITH ME. THE LAST COP WHO THREATENED ME REGRETTED IT...
W-WE'VE GOT A COUPLE OF MISSING PERSONS CASES, THOUGHT YOU MIGHT FIND IT COMPELLING.
MOST RECENTLY, MY DETECTIVES HAVE BEEN TRAILING A PARTICULAR INDIVIDUAL.
THAT TITLE DIDN'T LAST LONG.
I KILLED WITHOUT REMORSE OR BOUNDARIES. WHY DID THEY DESERVE TO LIVE WHEN MY PARENTS DIDN'T?
WHY?!

HE DISAPPEARED SUDDENLY TUESDAY NIGHT.
WH-WHAT WERE YOU DOING TUESDAY NIGHT?
OKAY, OKAY. I FIGURED OUT YOUR GAME. I KNOW WHO YOU'RE MISSING--
PENGUIN!
BOSS! IT'S THE KID!
CHRIST! HE'S GONNA MURDER US!
KILL HIM FIRST!
LANTERN. WHAT DID YOU DO TO HIM?!
"JUST LOOK UP, JIMMY."
KRAKAKAKA

RING?!

INITIATING BLACKOUT.

THE RING WORKED BY WILLPOWER.

AND I'M WILLFUL TO AN EXTREME.

BUT THE VOID WAS INSIDE ME, TOO.

I CRACKED OPEN THE RING. PUSHED IT PAST THE LIGHT.

I LET THE DARKNESS INSIDE ME ESCAPE.

YAAAAAGH!

SKREEEE!

OH GOD, OH GOD... HUUURK!

AND IN THE DARKNESS...

...I WASN'T ALONE ANYMORE.

WUH-- WUH--WHAT WAS...
YOU'RE STUPID AND DISGUSTING, PENGUIN. YOU ROB AND KILL IN MY CITY AND I'M SICK OF IT.
NOOOOOO!
LIKE I SAID, GORDON...JUST LOOK UP.
"SEE? THERE'S HIS SPLEEN, AND HIS BRAINS..."

LANTERN... THIS HAS TO STOP. THIS ISN'T *JUSTICE.*

I-I DON'T *CARE* WHAT YOU CAN DO TO ME, SOMEONE HAS TO STAND UP FOR WHAT'S *RIGHT!* WHAT YOU DID TO *DETECTIVE BULLOCK...* GOD HELP HIM. I KNOW YOU'RE *HURTING,* BUT--

YOU DON'T KNOW ME.

I'M NOT AN *IDIOT.* IT WAS ONLY A COUPLE YEARS AGO. *"THREE DEAD IN CRIME ALLEY."*

AREN'T YOU *TIRED* OF FEELING LIKE THIS...

...BRUCE?

SHUT UP, GORDON!

YOU HAVE A *DAUGHTER,* RIGHT?

SAD.

SHE'LL HAVE TO GROW UP WITHOUT HER *FATHER... ALONE.*

ENOUGH!

ALERT.

BRUCE WAYNE OF SECTOR 2814--

INCOMING GREEN LANTERN CORPS.
YOU ARE A DAMAGED LANTERN. AND WE ARE HERE TO FIX YOUR TRANSGRESSION.
YOU HAVE DONE THE UNIMAGINABLE--YOU LET DARKNESS INTO YOUR RING! THIS COULD POLLUTE THE ENTIRE GREEN LANTERN CORPS!
HAND OVER YOUR RING, NOW!
GANTHET, YOU'RE ALL IN A TIZZY OVER THIS SCRAWNY POOZER?
LEAVE 'IM TO ME.
WHOA! THIS IS WILD! THERE'S A TON OF YOU! BUT...
RING?
INITIALIZING BLACKOUT
I'VE GOT FRIENDS NOW, TOO.
I MADE THEM IN THE DARK.
SKREEEE!

SSS...
STOP.
TH-THE DARKNESS... IT DESTROYS EVERYTHING--
STILL, I FELT THE SAME.
CAN YOU IMAGINE?
THE MOST POWERFUL WEAPON ON MY FINGER...AND STILL I FELT VULNERABLE. HELPLESS.
I MISSED THEM.
I COULDN'T TAKE IT ANYMORE.
I DIDN'T WANT TO BE BRUCE WAYNE.
I DIDN'T WANT TO BE GREEN LANTERN.
STANDING IN FRONT OF A LANTERN... BUT FEELING SUBMERGED IN SHADOW. LIKE I NEVER LEFT THE CAVE UNDER MY MOM AND DAD'S HOUSE, WITH THE DARKNESS, AND THE BATS.

SO I BECAME...
BATMAN
THE DAWNBREAKER
WITH DARKNESS BLACK, I CHOKE THE LIGHT!
NO BRIGHTEST DAY ESCAPES MY SIGHT!
I TURN THE DAWN TO MIDNIGHT!
BEWARE MY POWER--
DAWNBREAKER'S MIGHT!

AND JUST AT THAT MOMENT...
THE WORLD BEGAN TO CRUMBLE AWAY.
I RECOGNIZED IT IMMEDIATELY.
IT WAS THE SAME AS THE VOID INSIDE ME.
THE DARKNESS THAT CONSUMES ALL LIGHT.
I COULDN'T EVEN SEE THE STARS.
NICE EARTH YOU GOT HERE. HOW'S IT WORKING OUT FOR YOU?
MOTEL

CALL ME THE MAN WHO LAUGHS. AND I AM RECRUITING.
THIS IS THE RED DEATH, AND THE MURDER MACHINE?
YOU'LL BE FAST FRIENDS, I'M SURE. YOU HAVE SO MANY THINGS IN COMMON. REVENGE, JUSTICE...FIRST NAMES...
THERE IS A WORLD BATHED IN LIGHT. THE PEOPLE THERE ARE FOOLS. THEY DESERVE TO BE DRAGGED INTO THE DARK. THEIR WORLD WILL CRUMBLE LIKE YOURS.
MY LORD BARBATOS DEMANDS IT.
YOU ARE A WARRIOR OF THE DARKNESS. YOU CAN EXTINGUISH THE LIGHTS OF THIS BRIGHT WORLD.
AND IF YOU DO...BARBATOS WILL SPARE YOU FROM THIS OBLIVION AND GIVE YOU BACK WHAT YOU MOST DESIRE...
...YOUR PARENTS BACK... ALIVE.
ALL MY LORD DEMANDS IS YOUR OBEDIENCE.
WILL YOU KNEEL?
OR WILL YOU DIE?

EARTH-0. First world and bright beacon of the Multiverse.

...I'VE KILLED GREEN LANTERNS BEFORE!
AND I'LL DO IT AGAIN!
RING! GET THIS OFF ME--!
CONSTRUCT OF UNKNOWN COMPOSITION.
POWER RING IS NOT OPERATING CORRECTLY.
IMPOSSIBLE.
DON'T TELL ME IMPOSSIBLE! JUST FIGHT BACK!
MALFUNCTION, HAL JORDAN.
THERE IS NO LIGHT.

ZRTT
QUICKLY.
DR. FATE?!
YOU ARE NEEDED ELSEWHERE, HAL JORDAN.
NO! I HAVE TO SAVE COAST CITY--!
YOU HAVE NO CHOICE.
IF THE MULTIVERSE...
...IS TO SURVIVE.

INITIATING BLACKOUT.
A WORLD OF LIGHT.
A CITY OF HOPE.
DISGUSTING.
LET THEM FEEL HELPLESS.
LET THEM FEEL THE VOID.
LET THEM FEEL--

SAM HUMPHRIES WRITER ETHAN VAN SCIVER ARTIST
JASON WRIGHT COLORS TOM NAPOLITANO LETTERS
JASON FABOK AND BRAD ANDERSON COVER
ANDREW MARINO ASSISTANT EDITOR MIKE COTTON EDITOR
EDDIE BERGANZA GROUP EDITOR

NEXT
THE DARK KNIGHTS
CONTINUE TO RISE IN
THE DROWNED #1

FROM VISIONARY WRITER/ARTIST

SEAN MURPHY

BATMAN
WHITE KNIGHT

In a world where the Dark Knight has gone too far,
The Joker must save Gotham City.

ARKHAM ASYLUM

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DC

A 7-Issue Limited Series
OCTOBER

FACE IT.
THE GREATEST VILLAIN...
CRACK!
...IN GOTHAM CITY...
CRACK!
...IS YOU!
STOP! TALKING!
CRACK!

I SEE GOTHAM MORE CLEARLY THAN ANY OF YOU...
...BUT YOU WON'T ADMIT IT.
TO YOU, I'M JUST A PSYCHO IN MAKEUP.
YOU LEFT ME NO CHOICE...
...BUT TO COME HERE TONIGHT...
...TO PROVE IT TO YOU...
...WITH THESE.
IF I CAN GET BETTER, I CAN GET THIS CITY BACK ON TRACK...
...FINALLY SHOW YOU...
...THAT YOU NEED ME.
FINE.

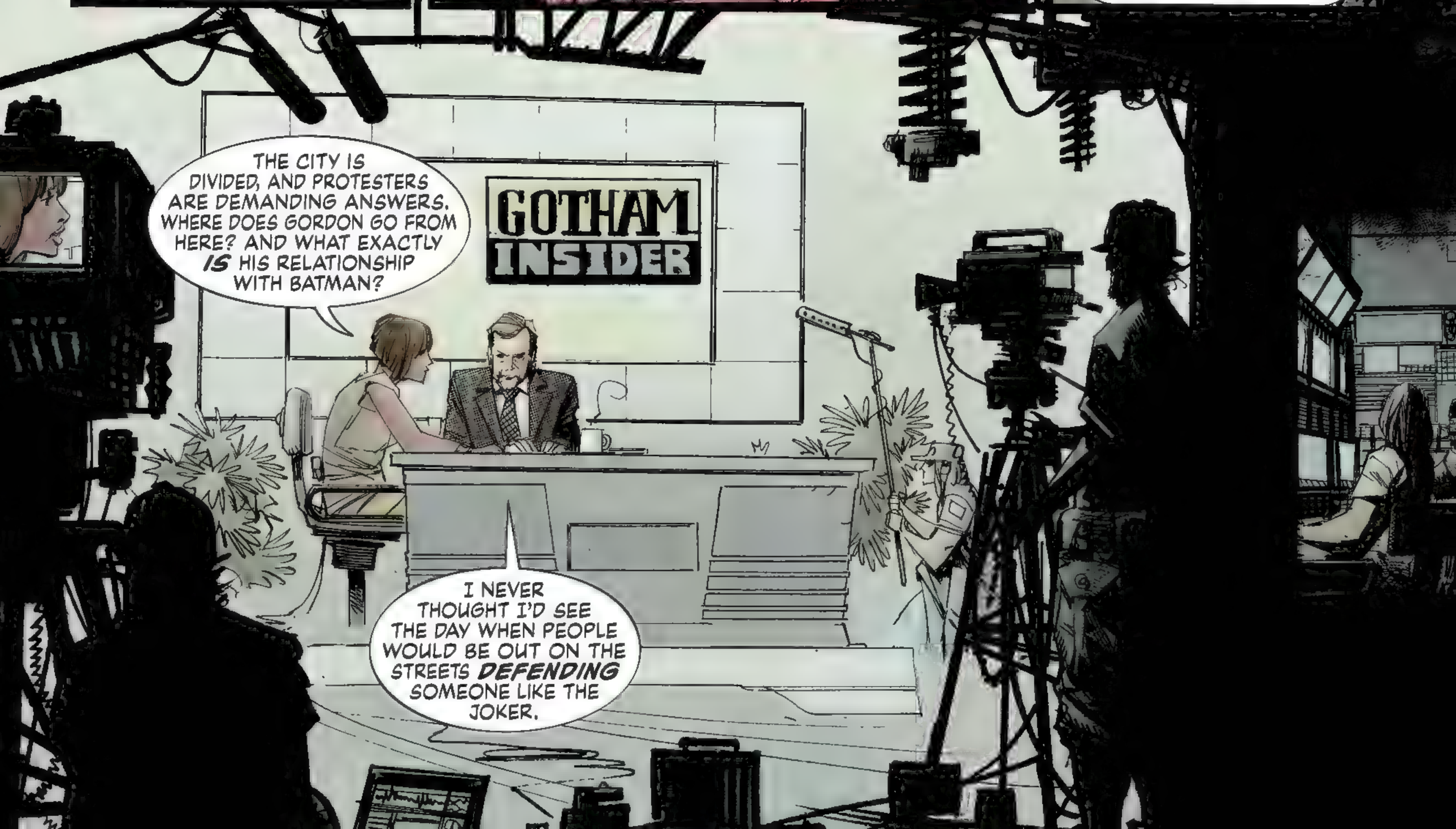
RECORD
YOU WANT TO GET BETTER?
THEN OPEN UP!
:GLCKH:
OH NO...
CHRIST...
BRUCE, DON'T...
:ACKKK: ...CAN'T...
...BREATHE...
SAVE
POLICE LINE

TONIGHT WE'RE DISCUSSING THE BATGATE SCANDAL: STUNNING FOOTAGE OF BATMAN'S ASSAULT ON THE JOKER HAS GONE VIRAL...
...CAUSING MANY TO QUESTION THE GCPD AND THE DARK KNIGHT'S METHODS.
GOTHAM INSIDER
THANK GOD THEY CAUGHT HIM.

THE POLICE HAVE ALWAYS DENIED HAVING ANYTHING TO DO WITH THE DARK KNIGHT. GORDON'S NEVER OFFICIALLY ADMITTED THAT HE EVEN EXISTS, AND NOW WE HAVE HIM ON CAMERA STANDING BY WHILE BATMAN VICIOUSLY ATTACKS THE JOKER.
SO WHAT?! THE JOKER IS GOTHAM'S GREATEST VILLAIN, A PSYCHOPATH WITH A LONG HISTORY OF VIOLENCE, AND A KNACK FOR MANIPULATING THE SYSTEM--EVERYONE KNOWS THAT.

BUT THE GCPD HAS NEVER SUCCESSFULLY CONVICTED HIM OF ANYTHING MORE THAN ARMED ROBBERY, DESPITE HIS PERCEIVED REPUTATION.
THE COPS NEED OUR SUPPORT, MAGGIE. GOTHAM IS THE BIRTHPLACE OF SUPER-CRIMINALS. I DON'T CARE WHAT IS AND ISN'T LEGAL--THIS CITY NEEDS BATMAN.

YES, BUT WHERE'S THE ACCOUNTABILITY? IF THE POLICE WON'T STOP BATMAN FROM CROSSING THE LINE, THEN WHO WILL? THE OPTICS ON THIS ARE TERRIBLE, AND IT ONLY MAKES THINGS WORSE FOR THE GCPD WHO ARE ALREADY PLAGUED WITH ACCUSATIONS OF CORRUPTION AND POLICE BRUTALITY.
THAT WAS THE PREVIOUS COMMISSIONER--GORDON HAS BEEN WORKING HARD TO OVERTURN PUBLIC OPINION. THE SJWS NEED TO GIVE HIM A CHANCE!


THE CITY IS DIVIDED, AND PROTESTERS ARE DEMANDING ANSWERS. WHERE DOES GORDON GO FROM HERE? AND WHAT EXACTLY IS HIS RELATIONSHIP WITH BATMAN?
GOTHAM INSIDER
I NEVER THOUGHT I'D SEE THE DAY WHEN PEOPLE WOULD BE OUT ON THE STREETS DEFENDING SOMEONE LIKE THE JOKER.

BATMAN'S A MANIAC. GLAD PEOPLE ARE ***FINALLY*** STARTING TO SEE IT.

BATMAN HAS SAVED THE LIVES OF ***DOZENS OF COPS,*** BULLOCK. EVEN YOURS!

ALLOWING A WEIRDO TO FIGHT CRIME IN HIS ***UNDERWEAR***-- WHAT KIND OF CITY LETS THAT HAPPEN?

THE ***GCPD*** HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH BATMAN, REMEMBER? FAR AS I'M CONCERNED, WE'RE NOT EVEN ***HAVING*** THIS CONVERSATION.

NO OFFENSE, COMMISSIONER, BUT THAT'S ***BULLSHIT.***

I WANTED TO ***ARREST*** BATMAN, BUT YOU WANTED TO SIT BACK AND DO NOTHING WHILE HE BEAT NAPIER UNCONSCIOUS. THAT LOOPHOLE ISN'T GOING TO WORK ANYMORE.

IF YOU'LL EXCUSE ME...

THE JOKER'S RIGHT: IF BATMAN HAD BEEN WEARING A BADGE, YOU'D CHARGE HIM WITH ***ASSAULT!***

HOW IS HE?

NOT SURE YET. HASN'T SAID A WORD SINCE WE BROUGHT HIM BACK TO ARKHAM.

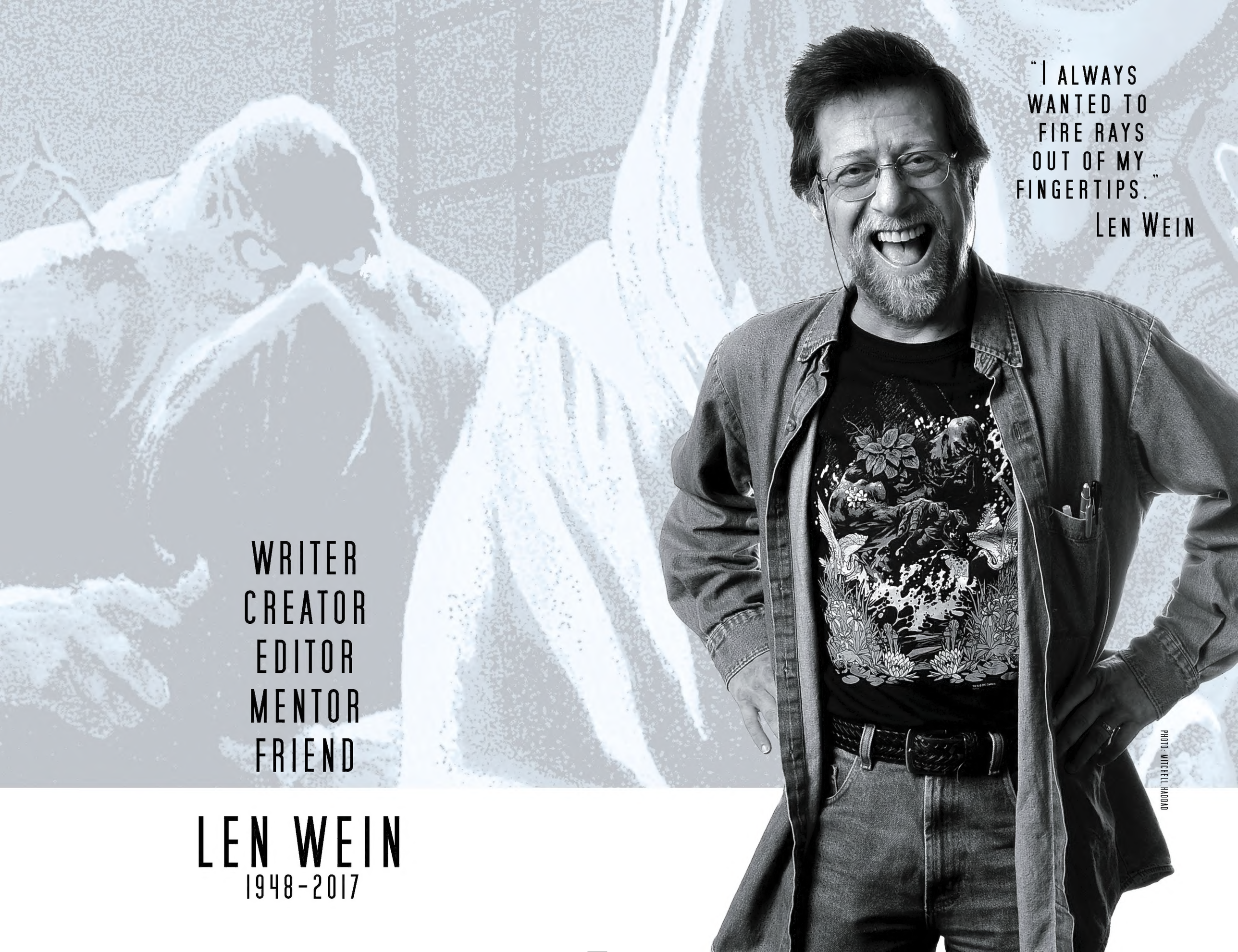
WE DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT THOSE PILLS-- THE SIDE EFFECTS, DOSAGE, NOTHING. HOW DID HE EVEN ***KNOW*** ABOUT THEM?

IS HE GOING TO BE OKAY?

PROBABLY-- NAPIER'S ONE TOUGH SON OF A BITCH.

BUT I'LL BE HONEST...

COMEDY
GOTHAM OR BUST
"...HE'S NOT THE ONE I'M WORRIED ABOUT."
HOW MANY GCPD DOES IT TAKE TO CHANGE A LIGHTBULB? IT ONLY TAKES ONE BATMAN!
COMEDY NIGHT
FEATURING NEWCOMER JACK NAPIER
NAPIER BOMBS
WHY DON'T YOU LOVE ME?
QUINZEL
JACK "JOKER" NAPIER FALLS TO ACID
BAN
OF
GOT
J


"I ALWAYS WANTED TO FIRE RAYS OUT OF MY FINGERTIPS."
LEN WEIN
WRITER
CREATOR
EDITOR
MENTOR
FRIEND
LEN WEIN
1948-2017
PHOTO: MITCHELL HADDAD

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Written by New York Times best-selling author

WARREN ELLIS
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OCTOBER 2017

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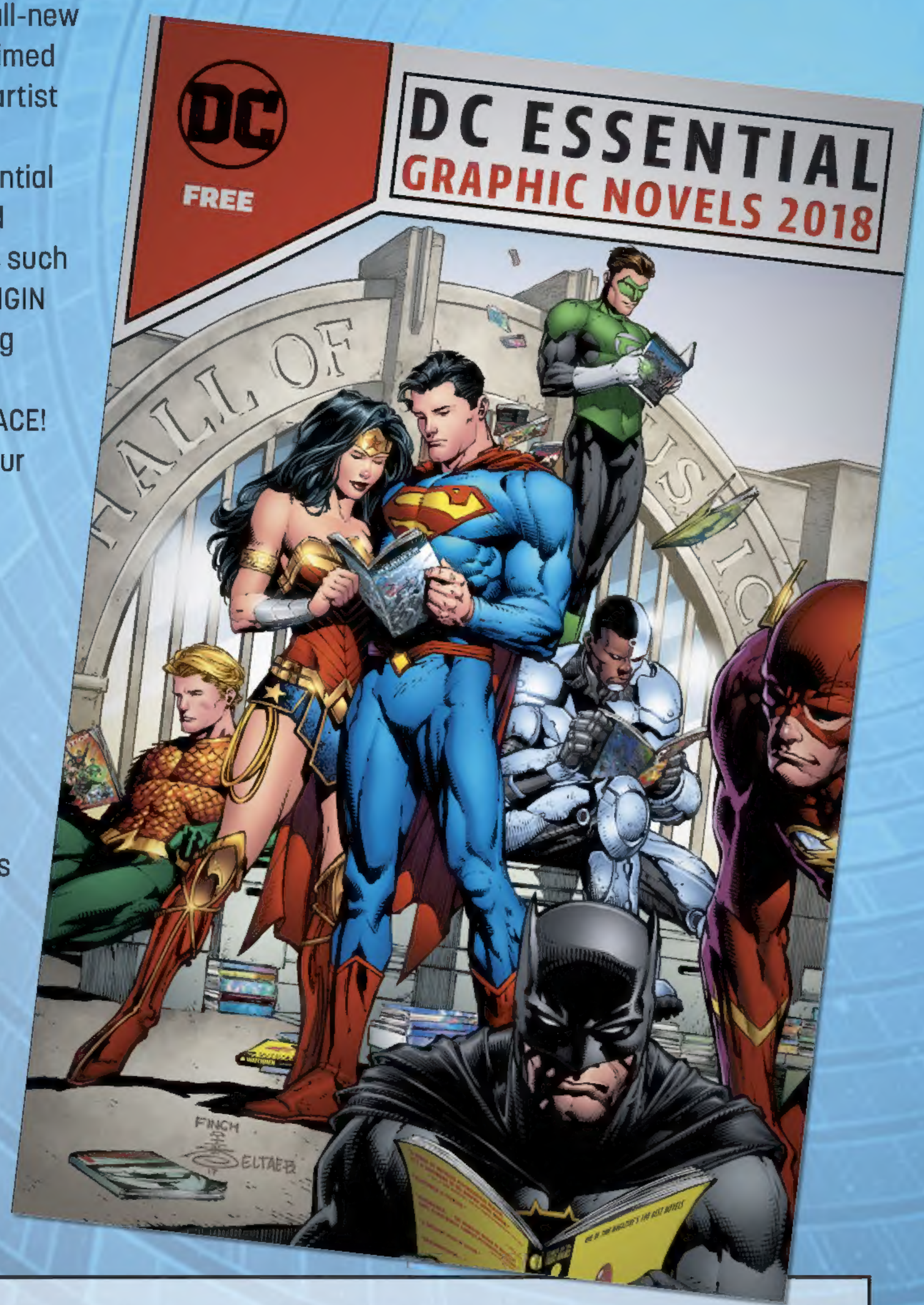

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ZONE